

The

Alcester Grammar



M.D.C.

NOBISCUM

CHRISTUS

STATE.

School Record

July, 1935.



A.G.S. Cricket First Eleven, 1955.

Baylis i

Keniston

Butt

Richards

Bayne

Warner
(Capt.)

Sherwood

Hewlett i

Grubb

Hewlett ii

Down

Alcester Grammar School Record.

No. 51

JULY, 1935

EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

L. HARRIS, D. HUNT, PARSONS.

Editorial.

With the close of another School year, we are naturally surveying the finances of the RECORD. On the whole the position is satisfactory; we are managing to maintain the circulation, even if the number of subscribers does not increase with any rapidity. Our little magazine is at present just able to pay its way, and this is very often not the case with school magazines. We wish, however, once again to make an urgent appeal to those who receive the RECORD by post, not to delay the payment of their subscriptions. Every penny spent on sending them reminders makes more difficult the task of balancing our budget.

The present issue is a 24-page one, and, in addition, includes as frontispiece a photograph of the Cricket 1st XI, the most successful cricket team that has represented the school for some years.

In sending sincere greetings to all readers, the Editor wishes to remind them that they can greatly assist the committee in keeping the RECORD a real record by informing him of items of news concerning themselves and others. Quite often such news reaches us only when it is too late for its inclusion to be of much interest to other readers.

School Register.

Valete

Gibbs, K. M. (Upp. V.), 1931-35.

Tombs, I. (Low. V.), 1932-35.

Edmonds, R. (Low. V.), 1925-35.

Bomford, M. (Upp. IV.), 1930-35.

Salvete

Dybeck, M. W. (i.)

Pellman, C. M. (Rem.)

Harrison, S. J. (i.)

Reynolds, J. E. (Rem.)

Heard, J. R. (Rem.)

Reynolds, J. M. (i.)

Pellman, R. P. (Rem.)

Wilkes, D. L. (ii.)

O. S. Guild News,

PRESIDENT—E. A. Finnemore

SECRETARY—S. Styler

TREASURER—R. Smith

The Summer Re-union of the Guild will be held at School on Saturday, July 27, commencing at 3 p.m. If, however, the day should be a wet one, an evening meeting from 7.30 p.m. onwards will be arranged.

In the afternoon an American tennis tournament, with automatic handicap, will be played; entries for this may be sent in pairs, or singly for partners to be drawn. A mixed cricket match will also be organised. Members wishing to play in either of these games would help the secretary considerably by sending him their names by Monday, July 22, at the latest. Prizes will be awarded to the tennis finalists. Clock Golf and Croquet games will also be arranged. The evening programme will consist of dancing in the hall until midnight. A cordial invitation is extended to all Old Scholars.

The cricket match with the School was played at Ragley on Monday, June 24, and ended in a draw, the School XI scoring 89, and the Old Scholars 71 for 7. The Old Scholars were represented by K. Bailey (capt.), S. Bailey, C. Baylis, J. Chambers, H. Hill, B. Hodgkinson, P. Hodgkinson, G. Horton, L. Sisam, W. Savage and S. Styler.

Congratulations to V. Chapman, (scholar 1918-23) who has been awarded a Rockefeller's Scholarship to attend Harvard University, U.S.A.

Also to Lydia Earp (scholar 1919-32), who has gained her B.A. degree at Sheffield University with 2nd class honours, being in addition awarded a Gladstone prize.

W. A. Partridge (scholar 1922-30), was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Worcester at St. Thomas' Church, Stourbridge on Sunday, June 16.

We are very pleased to learn of the success of Mrs. S. Yates (nee S. Hodgkinson, scholar 1922-27) in winning the Worcestershire Open Tennis Tournament.

E. L. L. Earp (scholar 1915-27) has been granted a commission in the Royal Engineers, West Lancashire Regt., who are touring Africa.

Mrs. Browne (nee Maud Walker) is home on holiday from the Malay States.

Births.

On June 6, to Mr. and Mrs. V. V. Druller—a daughter.

On June 27, to Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Lee (nee Eunice Baseley)—a daughter.

Marriages.

On March 27, at Alcester, Constance Dowdeswell (scholar 1923-28) to James H. Brown.

On April 17, at Dunnington, Kathleen Bomford (scholar 1917-24) to Norman Staff (scholar 1918-23).

On June 8, Winifred Wright (scholar 1926-34) to F. G. Hewitt.

On June 22, at Alcester, Muriel Mary Smith (scholar 1919-26) to Reginald Grummett.

On June 27, at Bidford-on-Avon, Cicely Holder (scholar 1916-20) to John Barton Harris.

Looking Through the Pages.

(Two members of the Upper Sixth have recently revealed the fact that they have both kept diaries since the days when they first entered the walls of A.G.S. and have supplied the following extracts for publication.—Ed).

Sept. 16 1925. I went to school for the first time to-day. I like it very much. Miss ——— asked me what my name was. I told her I have four names. I did not know how to spell them. I had to ask my big sister at break. We had drawing in the afternoon. I drew a large tabby cat. We had writing too. I used to write in ink. Now I have to write in pencil. I had to do a page of big O's.

Nov. 27, 1925. All our places were changed this morning. I sit next to a boy with black hair now. He said I looked like a Catholic washer-woman. I do not know what this is. I do not think it is very nice. We had plaster-scene for hand-work. Miss —— read us a tale about a wolf and seven kids. We had to make the wolf in plaster-scene. I did not know what the ears of a wolf looked like. My wolf looked like a dog.

May 3rd, 1926—We had great fun to-day. G——always sucks his fingers in class. To-day Miss —— tied his hands behind his back. We all laughed at him very much. He went very red. Miss—— was very angry with him. An aero-plane came over this morning. We all ran out on the field to see it. One boy said his uncle was in it. We found out that he was not. I think he was very naughty to say that his uncle was in it when he was not. In gym we had somersaults. I cannot turn somersaults. All the others can. They all laughed at me. They always laugh at me.

September 15th, 1926.—I am moved up. We are in Form II. We are allowed to write in ink now and we have masters. We are going to act form-room plays this term. Once a week we shall have to make speeches to the rest of the form. I do not like the idea at all.

November 11th, 1927.—We did not hear the bell for the two minutes' silence. We only heard the bell at the end and we had to stay in silence till the beginning of break. It seemed a very long time. My sandwiches were very stale, and I could not eat them. I hope I shall not get the same ones to-morrow. I wish I still had measles, as I liked having them very much. It is only two days since I came back to school.

September 26th, 1928.—Started school at A.G.S. Forgot to bring forms which were to be "completed and returned on the first day of the term." Surprised at size of school and find that the much-talked-of huts are not so much like poultry houses, as I had thought them to be. Have got to use a very fat pen with a big nib and sit in a desk with a lid, but find—much to my regret—that there are no locks to the desks after all.

November 20th, 1929.—Witnessed a fight between two girls—sworn enemies. Determined that the malaperts who cause such disturbances shall henceforth be known as the "Studley Crop." Surprised at the unusual collection of viands which the D——s sisters brought for dinner and which included half a loaf of brown bread and a tin of sardines.

October 24th, 1930.—Attended a lantern lecture on "A day in the life of a Cistercian Monk." Thought Cistercians only grew in the garden, but found they grew in Fountains Abbey too. Had French Dictée—18 mistakes—had to go to detention for same.

March 4th, 1931.—Played hockey for Jackals for first time. Displayed much blue and white ribbon, as I took my place on the field, meaning to shoot at least three goals. However, only shot up in the mud and treated my face to a "mud-pack," much to the amusement of the onlookers.

April 26th, 1931.—Miss —— absent. G—— J—— took us for an English lesson. Read a play and were much amused by the accomplished way in which one of our members read, "Out damned spot!" Ate Cottage Cheese for lunch, as usual. Have now collected fifty-nine coupons for entrance in the Chilvern Cheese Competition.

November 27th, 1931.—Much amused, this morning, to see various boys walking round the school field, affectionately embracing each other, and observed also J——, propelling herself on the tennis-court marker. To-day, completed manuscript for publication in School Magazine. This evening, attended my first debate. Much impressed by the enthusiasm of some males in defending "The Influence of Women."

(Here the entries in the diaries begin to get very scanty indeed. This is undoubtedly due to the increased pressure of work.).

Notes and News.

This year's Cricket captain is Warner, and Hewlett is vice-captain.

The Tennis captain is M. Sisam.

Speech Day was Thursday, May 16th, when the certificates were presented by Miss Lilian K. Barrie, Headmistress of King Edward's School for Girls, Birmingham.

The cross country races were run on Friday, April 5th, the senior event being won by Sherwood.

At the closing assembly last term the following presentations were made :—

The football—the gift of the Bunting brothers—to Hands.

The Hockey stick—the gift of Mrs. Caton—to A. Savage.

Football colours to Grubb and Hands.

Hockey colours to M. Rowles and R. Spencer.

The Mile was run on Wednesday, March 27th, the winner being Gray, with Sherwood a close second.

On May 6th the School was closed, in celebration of the King's Silver Jubilee.

On Monday, June 24th, the Cricket cap was presented to Grubb.

Warner has been the recipient of a Jack Hobbs cricket bat awarded by the "News Chronicle" for his bowling performance in taking six wickets for nine runs against Redditch C.H.S.

On Wednesday, May 29th, members of the Sixth and the Upper Fifth visited the Memorial Theatre, Stratford, with Miss Deans and Mr. Druller, for a performance of "King Henry the Fourth, Part 1."

The Scouts had their outing on Friday, June 7th. An account of this appears on another page.

On the last afternoon of the Spring Term, an entertainment, organised by Miss Jones, was given in the hall in aid of Dr. Barnado's Homes. The programme included musical and dramatic items, recitations and dancing. Mr. Cook's instrumental band was much appreciated. Scenes from "Ivanhoe" were rendered by the Lower Fourth, while Remove gave the trial scene from "Alice in Wonderland." Part songs were sung by the girls of the Sixth and Fifth, country dances were presented by members of Miss Smith's classes, and six of Miss Carey's dancing class appeared as Wood-nymphs. The football song was rendered by the members of the First XI., led by Warner.

A collection amounting to nearly three pounds was taken and sent to Dr. Barnado's Homes.

Warner played in the Warwickshire County Cricket trials at Edgbaston this year.

Half-term coincided with the Whitsuntide week-end, June 7th—11th.

On Wednesday, June 12th, members of the Upper Fourth, with Miss Evans and Mr. Druller, journeyed to Stratford to see "The Merchant of Venice."

Sports Day was held on Thursday, June 6th.

On Saturday, March 23rd, a party from Forms VI., Upper and Lower V., spent the day in Birmingham with Miss Weatherup, visiting the Municipal Art Gallery, the Pro-Cathedral Church, and the Hall of Memory.

Congratulations to Sherwood on his success in gaining an Exhibition of £30 a year at Pembroke College, Oxford.

The Oxford examinations commence on July 15th.

The French oral took place on May 9th.

The girl's Tennis tournament will be held on Friday, July 26th.

Miss Smith, who has been on the staff since January, 1930, is leaving at the end of term to take up a new post at Kingston-on-Thames.

We wish to acknowledge the gift of the following books :—
"The Third Route" (presented by Miss Boobyer); "Short Notes on the Parish Church of St. Peter, Coughton, Warwickshire," compiled by D. R. G. Gwynne-Jones, A. F. Mason and W. A. Partridge (presented by the authors); four books presented to Form I. library by D. Rees.

A party from the Lower Fifth, with Miss Evans and Mr. Druller, visited Stratford on Wednesday, July 10th, to see "Antony and Cleopatra."

Term ends on Tuesday, July 30th.

Complaints and Criticisms.

I believe I have gained the reputation of being very critical. Further I have, on a public occasion, been referred to as dangerous. I am resolved that such a useful faculty as this should be used for the advantage of the whole school, and that the "Record," lacking a correspondence column, should, through this article, ventilate the grievances that simmer beneath the smiling appearance we habitually present to the world.

Now first it is a matter of toffee—not toffee apples; the Sixth Form girl who had her toffee apples stolen can write her own complaint. At a time when we should do our very best for British goods I was aghast to discover that on a certain important day there was made for competition, exhibited, and even sometimes sold, Russian toffee! Russian toffee! And with what was an obvious attempt to corrupt with Communist propaganda the innocent minds of visitors and scholars, the bags holding the toffee were—red. I propose informing our little contemporary journal, the "Daily Screech," of this exhibition of Communism in our schools.

But since it is my intention to ventilate the grievances of the whole school, I made a request to members of the Lower school to let me know their complaints and suggestions. The tenor of these is something like this:—

"We demand—the abolition of homework and the detention system. Lines are either to share the same fate or alternatively the school should provide a salaried typist who would quickly perform, free of charge, all such impositions."

A strong minority demand the abolition of Mathematics, Latin and History, while—on the sacred principles of democracy, I presume, unless there is some other cause which I fail to grasp—they demand to choose the prefects by secret ballot. They formulate "The Rights of Third and Fourth Form schoolboys," the articles of which among other similar matters assert the right to bring toy pistols to class, to talk, when and so long as the spirit moves them, and the right of free press in the matter of notes passed between desks. The boys of Upper IV. and Lower V. complain that they are not allowed to enter the classrooms before school, and that this makes it necessary to carry inkpots into the cloakroom and other queer and unsuitable places. Upper V. demand

the right to look through their open window, and that the haunting dread of the application of the lockout system should be removed from them. They think that they could get on very well indeed during the dinner hours without visits of inspection from the Staff. The Sixth Form of course, as any one of them will tell you, are allowed to do exactly as they like. They have no complaints and against such creatures of light as inhabit these upper regions, who can have complaints?—Dear reader, how did you guess I belong to the Sixth Form? They would like to thank the donors of four very entertaining volumes to the reference library: "Tough Guy and the Kingly Shepherdess," "With the Red Rose at the Cricket Match," "The Schoolmaster's Daughter and the Matchbox Marconi," and a sequel by Dumas to his well known tale of "The Three Musketeers," entitled "Porthos seeks the Blarney Stone." I would further merely like to make a complaint against a now exalted individual—once in the "Record" called Weary Willie—and to know whether he knows where the umpire at the bowling end stands, or was he merely asleep again?

There remain only the complaints of the tadpoles and newts in the physics laboratory aquarium, and of the members of the staff in the common room. Most of the latter are thoroughly capable of expressing their complaints, but I hear of the former that the tadpoles are getting up a petition demanding the abolition of the newts, beginning "Down with the Boss Class."

Now since I have been to very great trouble to collect these complaints, it would be a very graceful gesture on the part of the authorities if they could comply with the measures suggested. I may say that I shall be leaving next term.

It had been my intention to keep my article no more than humorous, satirical and delicately spiced with personal allusion, but, since in a short time I shall not belong to the school as a member, I find that I should like to close with "Vale," the long acquaintance with it which I made with an inconspicuous "Ave" in 1927. But still, the school gains by those who leave her, for it means an ever-growing body of affection from outside, while inside there are always others able to take equally well their places. The only way I can connect this with an article purporting to be critical, is that here I can neither find, nor wish to find, any criticism.

W. E. S.

Speech Day.

To-day is speech day, and the feelings which this fact arouses vary in different parts of the school. For some pupils, it is their first Speech Day, and there is much contention as to what form the ceremony will take. It is whispered among these new pupils that Speech Day is a very boring and lengthy business, and all are filled with mingled curiosity and fear. Some are rejoicing that they will miss a Latin lesson, or regretting that they will miss games; while the unfortunate few are very sorry that they spent so much time on the geography homework last night, as they realise that they will not have the geography lesson this afternoon, after all. Among the upper part of the school there is much discussion as to whether the speaker will wish to shake hands with the recipients of certificates, and each is filled with consternation at the thought that perhaps he will be the first unfortunate to have to mount the platform.

After lunch the girls flock to the cloak-room, which is a profusion of clean blouses, clothes brushes, combs and boot polish. At two o'clock the tolling of the bell calls the school to an assembly for inspection. But not one child has to be sent back to brush her dress or comb her hair. The inspection completed, the school, hatted, coated and gloved, assembles in the art-room, whence alternate groups of twelve boys and twelve girls set forth accompanied by a prefect. As the seats of Alcester Picture House gradually fill, the suspense of the younger ones increases, until at last the Chairman rises.

I can say little about the school itself during the proceedings, except that the feelings of the younger ones as they grow impatient, and of the older ones, as they nearly trip over the top step of the platform, are indescribable.

The function ended, there is a hurried rush back to the school premises, whence the majority are hastily dispersed. For the prefects, however, Speech Day has not yet ended. It is their lot to pass round cucumber sandwiches, cakes and cups of tea to the parents, who have now assembled in the Hall. They set about this with a will and for a time all goes well, and, however often they go round, the visitors do not fail to lighten their plates somewhat. But soon the number of people who can be thus obliged diminishes, until only one person in some secluded corner remains, and a number of prefects hover near ready to offer their services. But mean-

time this proceeding has caused the prefects to feel some hunger themselves, and as the last visitors leave the room, they take their seats and fall to the cakes and scones with a will. For the prefects, the grand finale to the proceedings of Speech Day at last arrives.

L. A. H.

Olla Podrida.

In the British Museum, F. H. informs us, are documents written by Adam Bede and other early writers.

According to C.L., Wordsworth tells us that, when we die, we do not disappear, but only go into the country.

The Thames can be crossed in all places on foot, states F.M.J.

One of the ancient sports, says M.H., was "throwing the discuss." Was it an old form of the discussion group?

A googly, says J.A., is a ball that bounces in the block hole.

Which member of the Sixth spends his science lessons designing bathing costumes?

Extracts from Model English Essays.

(Mainly for the benefit of Upper Fifth.)

A PICTURESQUE SCENE.

It was a glorious morning in summer. (Note the simple style. Don't forget to start straight away with your subject.) The mighty sun-god (you ought to look up his name) drives his chariot recklessly through the heavens. (Always show a knowledge of the classics.) On my right the river roars down over the stones in a glittering silver cascade, leaving shimmering drops of crystal water on the willow trees on the bank. (This shows a vivid imagination. Note the use of liquid vowels.) In the distance, like a row of sentinels, (simile) stands a line of elm trees, over which peeps the tower of the ancient village church, its weather-vanes scintillating in the sunlight. (Make good use of your dictionary.) Before me lies the village. Yes! and there in front of the old village inn sits the oldest inhabi-

tant (always a male) contentedly puffing at his smoky clay pipe. Will the hum of the machine ever reach this quaint, secluded spot in the very heart of England? Alas, I fear such has already happened, for farther along the dusty lane can be seen a garage with four or five dirty, smelly—(I beg your pardon)—odorous petrol pumps, protruding beyond a large board which reads, "Draw In. Immediate Service." On the other side of the road, (only called so by the Parish Council) in opposition, stands the blacksmith's forge, whose owner gains immeasurable joy in banging on his anvil about 4.30 a.m., "just to show 'em, miss, as there be some as 'as to work for a living," he told me confidentially.

AN EXCITING SCENE.

(This is intended to show the style necessary in describing a "dramatic incident.")

One minute left! Our hero had barely time to reach the foot of the stairs. Yes! there it went. Clang! Clang! Clang! With an almost superhuman effort he bounded up the stairs. Why didn't they give a longer time for break, anyway? Of course he had forgotten to get his books. Into his desk he delves. Books are strewn in all directions. In vain! Not even one blue book can he find. Ah yes! He had put it in the spare desk. With his precious prize tucked underneath his arm he dashes through the door with the agility of an antelope. (Note the artful aid of alliteration). He rushes down the stairs and corridor, round corners, scatters everybody in all directions and murmurs "Oh bother," "bother," "dash!" "So sorry I can't stop to pick them up." Yet, still he dashes on. Ah! his destination is in view. Bang? there goes the door. Yes! Just his luck. Murmuring something inaudible he prepares for the fight. He just couldn't understand why people were always so concerned with punctuality.

* * * *

Well, my readers, I shall expect you all to get good results in your English exams this term. And, you members of Upper V., at least six distinctions, please, and I shall feel fully rewarded.

A NICE BACONIAN.

Sports Day, 1955.

On June 6th, our annual Sports Day was held. The customary flags and obstacles were seen on the field, erected by willing workers under Mr. Hall's supervision.

We had unpleasant news from the B.B.C. the night before, and we expected rain towards evening. Indeed, in the morning the sky was overcast and a cool breeze was blowing. However, visitors and old scholars turned up on large numbers and crowded along the field. We could not help noticing, however, that umbrellas had superseded walking-sticks.

The sports began on time and keen interest was displayed on all sides, but 'evening' came rather too early, for when three quarters of the outdoor sports were over the deluge began. Immediately vantage points were evacuated and dryer places of refuge were found in the school buildings. Hurriedly tea buffets and ice-cream stalls were dismantled and removed indoors. In a trice hardly a soul was left outside, and Mr. Hall had to postpone the sports for at least half-an-hour. But an hour passed and still the rain poured down: consequently the rest of the programme was abandoned for the day.

When the time for the presentation came Dr. H. E. Collier, M.B., who had come down to present the cup, was taken into the school, where he took up his position at the bell-table. He made no speech, but gave out the medals for the arts and crafts.

One bright incident, in an unfortunate day, for all concerned with the School, was the visit made by Mr. Wells; he shook hands with all he could and said a few words after the presentation to the whole school.

The other events were run off in the following week, and the result was a victory by the Tomtits. Luker won the Victor Ludorum Cup, being the most successful senior. Down, though with more points, could not receive it as he was a junior. Dr. Collier kindly consented to present the cup and sports medals on June 27th.

RESULTS.

SENIORS.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1 Hunt i, 2 Grubb, 3 Warner, 4 Luker.
Cross Country (5 miles).—1 Sherwood, 2 Warner, 3 Gray, 4 Hewlett i.

Long Jump.—1 Richards, 2 Grubb, 3 Luker, 4 Warner.

One Mile.—1 Gray, 2 Sherwood, 3 Thomas, 4 Orme.

100 Yards.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle, 3 Richards, 4 Parsons.

Half-Mile.—1 Gray, 2 Shrimpton, 3 Thomas, 4 Baylis i.

Slow Bicycle Race.—1 Keniston, 2 Richards, 3 Warner, 4 Smith ii.
 Obstacle Race.—1 Holman, 2 Grubb, 3 Bullock i, 4 Hewlett i.
 220 Yards.—1 Luker, 2 Biddle, 3 Warner, 4 Grubb.
 Quarter-Mile.—1 Gray, 2 Biddle, 3 Warner, 4 Grubb.
 Hurdles.—1 Luker, 2 Warner, 3 Grubb, 4 Smith ii.
 High Jump.—1 Luker (5ft. 3ins.), 2 Warner, 3 Sherwood, 4 Keniston.

JUNIORS (12—14).

Cross Country (3 miles).—1 Down, 2 Avery, 3 Clemson, 4 Spencer i.
 Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1 Down, 2 Rogers, 3 Battersea, 4 Avery.
 Long Jump.—1 Down, 2 Bullock ii, 3 Rogers, 4 Collins i.
 100 Yards.—1 Down, 2 Bullock ii, 3 Avery, 4 Salt.
 Half-Mile.—1 Down, 2 Avery, 3 Clemson, 4 Midlane i.
 Obstacle Race.—1 Walters, 2 Battersea, 3 Bullock ii, 4 Collins i.
 220 Yards.—1 Down, 2 Collins i, 3 Avery, 4 Bullock ii.
 Slow Bicycle Race.—1 Arnold, 2 Midlane i, 3 Huxley, 4 Lewis.
 Hurdles.—1 Bullock ii, 2 Avery, 3 Collins i, 4 Battersea.
 High Jump.—1 Bullock ii (4ft. 1in.), 2 Walters, 3 Green i, 4 Avery.

OTHER RESULTS.

Egg and Spoon Race (under 12).—1 Hanson, 2 Goode, 3 Collett, 4 Spencer iii.
 100 Yards (under 12).—1 Goode, 2 Harrison, 3 Ison, 4 Spencer iii.
 50 Yards (6—7).—1 M. Henman, 2 G. Allen, 3 Lawrence, 4 S. Harrison.
 Obstacle Race (under 12).—1 Allen ii, 2 Goulbourne, 3 Jordan, 4 Hanson.
 75 Yards (8—9).—1 De Whalley, 2 S. Careless, 3 P. Midlane, 4 V. Stevens.
 Sack Race (under 12).—1 Midlane ii, 2 Hanson, 3 Jordan, 4 Goulbourne.
 Relay Race (Form I).—1 Brownies, 2 Jackals and Tomtits (equal).
 Three-legged Race (under 12).—1 Collins ii and Harrison, 2 Hanson and Goulbourne, 3 Stevens and Jordan, 4 Allen ii and Midlane.
 Three-legged Race (Form I, Girls).—1 S. Careless and P. Midlane, 2 V. Stevens and J. Reynolds.
 Tug-of-War (2 Teams).—Jackals beat Tomtits.
 Relay Race.—1 Jackals, 2 Tomtits, 3 Brownies.

The following presentations were made:—

BRONZE MEDALS: Richards, Biddle, Hunt i, Grubb, Shrimpton, Collins i, Walters, Goode.

SILVER MEDALS: Sherwood, Warner, Avery, Down, Gray, Bullock ii.

GOLD MEDAL AND VICTOR LUDORUM CUP: Luker (58 points).

SPORTS SHIELD: Tomtits (429 points).

Brownies scored 270 points, and the Jackals 245 points.

L. P.

Sports Day Indoors.

As usual, Sports Day this year began with much hurrying to and fro between the dining room and the hall by girls trying to carry too many plates of cakes at once. Fortunately there were very few accidents, and by lunch time everything was set out in the hall ready for the afternoon.

The weather for the first half of the afternoon was very doubtful, and about three o'clock it began to rain. For the second time on record, Sports Day this year was wet. As a result of this, when the sports were abandoned, the hall became crowded with people admiring the many exhibits of cookery and needlework. Few, however, seemed at first anxious to purchase anything, but later trade increased and by the end of the afternoon practically all the cookery had been sold. Many people also visited the displays of art, historical models and dolls, and household gadgets and mechanical toys.

After tea, as the rain had stopped, a display of gymnastics was given on the field by Remove, followed by one by the girls of Forms III. and Lower IV. Unfortunately this was interrupted by heavy showers, and concluded in pouring rain.

Later in the evening the Arts and Crafts Shield and Medals were presented by Dr. Collier.

Results :—

The Arts and Crafts Shield was won by the Jackals with 999 points (girls 639, boys 360) ; the Brownies were second with 718 points (girls 552, boys 166) ; the Tomtits were third with 624 points (girls 425, boys 199).

Silver Medals—Seniors : Joyce Jackson (103), Margaret Rowles (99), Flora Johnson (89), Linda Harris (86), Kathleen Collins (83), Rachel Spencer (78), Hewlett i (77), Mollie Bryan (71). Juniors : Dorothy Gale (78).

Bronze Medals—Seniors : Diana Hunt (61), Warner (58), Vera Goulbourne (56), Mary Clemson (55), Marian Sisam (49), Myra Jones (47), Richards (45). Juniors : Angela Jenkins (62).

H. D. H.

Some Facts and Thoughts about Life in Malaya.

(Concluded)

The trees are many and very varied according to the altitude at which they are growing. In the jungle marvellous ferns grow, hundreds of different kinds, and they always seem to be a lovely fresh green, because they are sheltered from the glare and heat of the sun by the many tall trees.

High up on the hills practically anything will grow, and now two delightful Hill Stations have been made, at which there are Model English Dairy Farms, which produce lovely fresh vegetables and fruit, which can be bought in the shops in the large towns. They are somewhat expensive, but a great treat. Certain vegetables are grown, in plenty, in the lowlands, such as kidney beans, cabbages, carrots, turnips, and, of course, potatoes.

We grow quite good crops of tomatoes in our gardens; also lettuce and other small salad plants, but they are not easy to grow, and often when they are practically mature get eaten by insects.

The Fauna of Malaya is surpassed in number of species only in parts of South America. Elephants were once numerous, but owing to the opening up of the country for cultivation their range has been much restricted. The local elephant is not large, but its ivory is particularly valuable. Two species of rhinoceros are known and, like the elephant, the rhinoceros is much persecuted, as its horn and almost every portion of its anatomy command large prices from Chinese medicine dealers. The Seladang or Malayan bison is also seen in some parts of the jungle; also deer, wild dogs, monkeys of numerous kinds and small species of tiger and panther. But all these, with the exception of monkeys, keep very far in the jungle, and are scarcely ever seen near the towns. In over two years I have seen only a black panther, several snakes, an elephant which was tame, and a bear which someone had just shot in the jungle. Malaya is essentially the metropolis of squirrels. They range from an animal bigger than a cat to one little larger than a small rat. Reptiles of all groups are very common, but they do not obtrude themselves, as they do in India. Lizards are very common, and if you need new skin shoes all you have to do is to go to the shop and choose your skin, and the style of shoe you want, and a Chinese shoemaker takes the size of your foot, and makes you a decent pair of shoes very cheaply. There is also a species of lizard, which is very small (between two and three inches in length) known as a Chichak. One sees perhaps twenty to thirty of these about the walls and ceilings of the bungalows, lying in wait for some unwary insect to come within range of their jaws. It annoys them if their prey escapes, and they give vent to their feelings by chirping exactly like sparrows. People have told me that their tails drop off at certain seasons, but from my own observations I have found that this is not so. Their tails come off, certainly, but the reason is this:—

they are vicious little brutes and are always fighting among themselves. Their method of attack is to steal up behind each other and get a firm grip of their surprised victim's tail just where it joins the body; the attacked lizard turns as far as he is able and the only part of his attacker's anatomy that it can reach is its tail, and they often lock themselves together in this way and run in a continuous circle until they are exhausted, or they lose their grip on the ceiling and fall to the floor with a resounding "plop," unless some unlucky person happens to be passing beneath! As a result of frequent "scraps" of this kind the vertebrae become severed and their tails drop off, but, thanks to mother Nature, these are replaced in a short while and the little lizard is complete for further combats.

All kinds of very large and beautifully coloured butterflies are to be seen, and birds too are very plentiful and of various colours and sizes. The little brown swallow is the most common, who makes his nest in every conceivable angle of the town buildings, unlike the sparrow who makes his nest in the hedges, as in England; but the mother bird does not need to sit on her babies to keep them warm, as the sun does this for her, and the little birds grow from the egg stage to the flying away stage in just about a week.

MAUD BROWNE

(née Walker).

At the Dentists.

The Editor, "A. G. S. Record."

Sir,—Since my last communication appeared in these pages, it has been my unhappy lot to undergo a form of torture, to which, even in his wildest dreams the Apache could not hope to aspire. I refer to the painless extraction of teeth by the most modern method.

Upon the recommendation of a cruel hearted doctor, whose lack of conscience was only equalled by his callous disregard of my personal feelings, I was (unhappy day) forced to visit the dentist.

On arrival I found myself in a white room, flanked by pictures of jaws and teeth in section, and containing a few chairs and a table upon which lay several ancient magazines and treatises on dentistry. These effects gave the room that jolly air which one usually associates with such places of entertainment.

After looking through one of the magazines and reading a pleasant article (complete with statistics) on how many people died under the hands of dentists during the preceding year, I found myself summoned to the inner sanctum or lair of the monster (sorry, dentist).

The chair was the main piece of furniture, and it was into its massive arms that I was conducted. The dentist, with a servile grin masking his eager anticipation, advanced and peered carefully within the now wide open mouth. Having satisfied himself that there was not a sound tooth in the whole jaw he picked up a miniature pick and commenced the attack.—And then ensued a period of torment that I would rather leave undescribed. After a real orgy of excavation the dentist laid aside his excavating tool and began to fit what looked like a miniature circular saw into the end of an electric drill.

"It seems," said my tormentor, setting in motion the mechanism of the drill, with a deft flick of his foot, "hard to believe that your teeth have not had attention for five years. Just a little wider, please!"

I realised that I was being called a liar as plainly as it was possible, but before I could reply the drill came into operation with such force, that I could only hold on to the arms of the chair and offer a silent prayer.

"One should have the teeth attended to at least every six months," said he, quickly fitting a fresh tool in the drill. My reply was frustrated as the dentist set to work again, getting good leverage for his operations by using my lower jaw as a fulcrum. He finally completed his excavating and inundating operation, and, regretfully pushing away the arm of the drilling machine, began to pound up some mixture in a pestle and mortar.

"You must have been very careful in your diet for your teeth to have lasted like this."

I smiled—but shook my head. The dentist put down the mortar with deliberation and regarded me from head to foot—for anything in the shape of cheerfulness or levity, emanating from the victim under torture jars upon the tormentor's sense of what is right and proper. This must not occur again; so he looked around for a gag, finally producing a long rubber contraption with a hooked nozzle, which he hung over my face effectually stifling all utterance and reducing my part of the conversation to a series of gurgles and giggles reminiscent of the morse code. Then taking up the mortar he again proceeded to use his pestle, while carrying on a monologue.

After a few leading remarks he started on a comparison of statesmen.

"Personally," he said, "I am an upholder of the principles and policy of Mr. MacRamsay Ronald—are you?"

Thoughtlessly lifting the gag, I replied. It was a mad act—the dentist simply took up an innocuous looking bulbous appliance, and having filled it with hot air at a spirit lamp, discharged at one blast its contents into the excavated tooth! When I recovered consciousness I found the operation over, and with aid I returned home almost a broken man.

After describing this gruelling proceeding I feel quite ill again, so I will conclude this screed before I wander any deeper into the morass of fascination.

As usual, and for the last time,
I present my humble salutations,
and remain as ever,
Your humble servant,

THE SPECTATOR.

A Sports Day Nightmare.

I arrived at school on Sports Day with my historical model in a carefully wrapped parcel, but, to my great amazement, I discovered that I had been carrying a neat pile of roof slates! That was bad enough, but worse was to follow. My toffee was lumps of glue, my mince pies were stones, and my much-treasured cherry cake was now a brimless straw hat filled with mud. That of course, finished me, as far as arts and crafts were concerned

After a terrible morning at school, which had consisted mostly of a science lesson, a Latin lesson (in which I had been asked to put Mark Antony's speech from "Julius Caesar" into Latin), and a terrible French class, I went home to my dinner. On arrival at school after dinner, I discovered that my once spotless running clothes were now covered with tar. However, I lined up with the rest at the start of the first race, and came in last by yards, owing to the fact that my feet seemed to be made of lead.

In my next race, the starter, instead of pointing his pistol at the ground, aimed at me. As he pulled the trigger a streak of orange flame leapt from the barrel of the gun. I felt a pain in my head as the bullet struck

Then I woke up, with my head on a chair and my feet on the floor. "Thank goodness," I thought, "that it was only a dream, after all!" And with this thought on my mind, I got back into bed, turned over and went to sleep.

W. G. HUNT (Low. IV).

Just in Time.

One day, when Jack and Tom were out hunting in Africa, Jack saw a beautiful striped tiger creeping towards them. He quickly raised his repeating rifle to his shoulder and fired three shots at it. Two of the shots missed, but the third hit it between the eyes and it fell down dead. Then Tom ran home to fetch his father, who was a big game hunter.

As soon as Tom had gone Jack sat down to wait and all of a sudden he saw a movement in the bush and he fired. A huge tigress came for him and knocked him down. As it lifted up its paw to kill him a shot rang out and it fell dead. As Jack's father came up with smoking gun Jack fainted.

SPENCER (II.)

Hide and Seek.

It was a hot, sunny day, and Cedric and his little sister Rosemary made up their minds to go a picnic on the moors. They asked their mother for permission to go. After much persuasion she consented, and they started out in high spirits. Soon they arrived at their destination, hot but happy. After they had enjoyed their sandwiches they had a game at hide and seek. Cedric went away to hide, while Rosemary hid her face. Cedric ran off and found a hollow, just deep enough to hide him. Rosemary then started to find him. It was quite useless; she could not find him so she went home. Meanwhile Cedric scrambled out of the hollow, after congratulating himself, only to find a heavy moorland fog around him. He tried to find the way home, but could not. After wandering round and round he fell asleep exhausted. Rosemary told her parents about Cedric and they formed a search party, and after hours of searching they found him. The next morning Cedric awoke none the worse for his adventure.

J. WHITEHOUSE.

Scouts.

Owing to very unsettled weather this term, very few route marches have been possible, and consequently, most of the scout periods have been spent indoors.

At half-term, the annual Scout outing took place, our destination this time being Swindon, where we spent an extremely interesting afternoon at the Great Western Railway Works. We left Alcester just before 10 a.m., and but for a long and tedious wait at Leamington, the journey on the whole was quite enjoyable. Arriving at Swindon just before 2 p.m. we were taken straight to the works by one of the guides, and our tour of inspection began in high spirits.

To begin with we were taken over the woodwork department. Half completed carriages, some without wheels, bits of wood lying here and there, and the continual hammering, seemed to give us the impression that we were looking on the scene of a terrible train smash. Reaching the end of this department, we arrived at the place where almost complete carriages stood. Painters were putting the finishing touches to them, and amusement was aroused by the way in which one man carefully measured out the paint as if he was measuring out molten gold. The reason for this, our guide told us, was that each painter had to make his paint be sufficient for the job set for him.

We then passed into the other woodwork department, where practically everything was done by machinery, and we could all see how perfect it was. In this department such objects as window-sills which are open to the public eye were made. Automatic suction pipes above each piece of machinery took away all the shavings and sawdust, so that no heaps of litter impeded the workmen.

As a contrast to this department, we next entered the place where engines, wheels and other metal parts were made. Here again the modern machinery aroused the interest of every member, and much amazement was caused when we saw quite a small machine planing a piece of steel with no more effort than if it had been planing a pound of butter. Here, as in the wood department, the workers were only needed for the supervision of the machines. Our tour of inspection came to an end at about 4 p.m., when we saw the completed engines ready to go out from the works.

We returned home in high spirits, after a very interesting day's outing, which was only marred by three careless boys losing their caps, and one of these three breaking his glasses.

It is hoped that a Scout Rally will be held at the end of the term, as we have had in previous years. Neighbouring troops will be invited to be present as usual, and the sports will be followed by the customary display by the various troops.

L. G. B.

Cricket.

CAPTAIN—Warner.

SECRETARY—Bayne.

The opening of the cricket season has presented a pleasing contrast to that of the football season. As yet the School has lost only two matches, and was unfortunate in having insufficient time to finish the games with Campden and the Old Scholars. Success can be largely attributed to Warner, Grubb and Hewlett ii., and also to a general improvement in fielding. Grubb has exhibited a delightfully free style, and has so far been top scorer in most matches, whereas some really steady batting on the part of Warner and Hewlett ii. has always provided an effective stumbling block to the opponent's attack. Warner and Baylis i. have been the most successful bowlers, but Hewlett ii. Grubb and Keniston have often proved their worth as change bowlers.

	For.	Agst.
A.G.S. v. Redditch C.H.S. (away) won	66—4	47
A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away) won	47—3	46
A.G.S. v. Chipping Campden G.S. (home)		
drawn	70—9	36—8
A.G.S. v. Warwick School 2nd (away) won	124—8	51
A.G.S. v. Old Scholars (home) drawn	89	71—7
A.G.S. v. Stratford K.F.G.S. (home) lost	66	67—7
A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home) lost	35	47
A.G.S. v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (away) drawn	61—7	158—5
A.G.S. v. Kings Norton S.S. (home) drawn	123—5	66—7
A.G.S. v. Chipping Campden G.S. (away) won	56	47

SIDES MATCHES :—

Tomtits 178 for 5, Brownies 175; Jackals 86, Tomtits 72; Brownies 115 for 6, Jackals 62.

Football, 1954-55.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Goals	
				For	Against
15	3	1	11	40	65

The following boys played for the 1st XI during the season : Warner, Sherwood, Richards, Hewlett i, Luker, Hughes, Grubb, Ledbury, Smith i, Keniston, Down, Avery, Gray, Hands, Chatterley, Edmonds, Hewlett ii, Collins i, Battersea.

P.W.W. P.J.B.

Tennis.

CAPTAIN—M. Sisam.

SECRETARY—J. Jackson.

COMMITTEE—M. Bryan, M. Rowles, R. Spencer.

So far this season four matches have been played, as unfortunately the match against Redditch C.H.S. had to be scratched on account of rain. Of these two have been won and two lost.

Owing to stormy weather there has been less dinner-hour practice than usual this term. There are twelve entries for the Gold Medal Tournament, but none of the matches have yet been played.

The sides matches, which were played in the early part of the term, resulted as follows: Jackals beat Tomtits 4—6, 6—3, 6—3; Brownies beat Jackals 6—1, 6—2; Brownies beat Tomtits 6—4, 7—5.

The School has been represented by the following players: M. Sisam, F. Sore, M. Rowles, K. Collins, J. Jackson, M. Bryan and as reserve, D. Hunt.

RESULTS:—

A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away) lost, 3 matches to 6 matches (54 games to 81 games).

A.G.S. v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. (home) won, 81 games to 54 games.

A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home) lost, 66 games to 69 games.

A.G.S. "B" team v. Bromsgrove C.H.S. "B" team (away) won, 76 games to 59 games.

F. J. H. J.

Hockey, 1954-55.

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against
14	5	1	8	41	57

For the Juniors.**The Magic Carpet.**

Once there was a little gnome. He lived in the wood and his house was a little toad-stool, with a door and two little windows and a ladder up to the door. The gnome's name was Puck.

One day Puck went into the wood. As he walked along he saw a lump in the leaves. He brushed them back and there he saw a carpet. Attached to it, was a card with writing, "I am magic," it said.

Puck stepped on to it and it sailed right up into the air. He was quite frightened, when suddenly, down came a fairy, dressed in silver cobwebs, and she gave Puck three wishes. "I would like to marry you," said Puck, "and I wish you would show me the land of the stars, and I wish we could live together in a little house."

So they sailed away on the carpet, and she showed him starland, and the clouds, and her little house. And they got married and lived happily ever after

J. REYNOLDS (aged 8), Form I.

The Crocus Baby.

Deep down in the earth, a crocus baby lay. One fine morning in February, a sunbeam came to wake that little crocus baby. He said, "wake up! wake up! WAKE UP! Mr. Crocus, or you will be late."

"All right, I'll try to come up. What is it like up there?"

"It is a lovely place," said the sunbeam, and away she sped.

And at last one beautiful morning the crocus reached the top of the earth. He liked it very much and every year now he comes up.

J. ALLEN (aged 7 years).

A Little Old Man.

A little old man lived in an oak tree. He wore a little white vest, little black trousers and a grey shirt.

He was always making things or helping people, and he had a garden that was always full of flowers.

Once he heard a noise and wondered what it was, and he found a lamb lying in a ditch. It had a strained foot and couldn't walk.

"Dear me," said he, "I must help him." So he went back to his house and got a pole from his tool-shed. He brought it out and put it down the ditch, and the lamb climbed up it.

And the little man took him home and gave him some food. And when night came he put the lamb to bed in a bundle of straw.

HENMAN (aged 6 years).

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.
